

forward in the preceding pages, we shall have but few additions to the ranks of the colour-change advocates. In any case, I cannot too strongly urge care in the examination of specimens, and the study of large series taken at all periods of the year.

Pennæ pennis non mutantur!

XV.—Description of a new Species of Bush-Shrike from the Knysna District of Cape Colony. By W. L. SCLATER, M.A., F.Z.S., Director of the South-African Museum.

(Plate VI.)

LANIARIUS MARAISI, sp. nov. (Plate VI.)

Head and back bluish grey, slightly streaked with green; back and wings dull green, brightest on the rump and upper tail-coverts; a few of the outer wing-coverts tipped with dull white; wing-quills dusky, edged along the outer web with green, the inner edges of all except the first two pale yellow; tail-quills dull green, the inner webs and tips of all but the two central edged with pale yellow; eye-coverts greyish. Beneath dull whitish, the neck and breast with narrow, rather irregular, fine bars of greyish black, and slightly tinged with yellow; thighs greenish; abdomen and under tail-coverts pure white; edge of the wing, axillaries, and under wing-coverts bright lemon-yellow. Iris reddish brown; bill dark horn, base of lower mandible light horn; tarsi bluish slate. Length of skin about 7·5 inches, wing 3·25, tail 3·5, culmen 0·60, tarsus 0·92.

The female resembles the male, but there is not quite so much yellow about the breast, and it is slightly smaller. Wing 3·10 inches, tail 3·20, tarsus 0·90.

Mr. Marais, after whom I have named this species, sent me the first example of it two years ago, but I originally thought that it must be a young specimen of *L. rubiginosus*. He, however, stated that his specimens were adult birds, and he has since shot a good many more examples.

The following is a complete list of them, with dates and sexes :—

♂.	Gonna, Knysna.....	10 5 98.
♀.	Salt River, Knysna	14 5 98.
♂ adult.	Craddock's Bush, Knysna	3 11 98.
♂.	" "	8 10 99.
♂ adult.	Stockbels Bush, "	11 10 99.
♀ adult.	" "	11 10 99.
♀ adult.	Brick-kiln Bush, "	12 10 99.
♂ adult.	Stockbels Bush, "	13 10 99.
♂ adult.	Craddock's Bush, "	16 10 99.
♂ adult.	Brick-kiln Bush, "	1 11/39.
♂ adult.	Salt River, "	20 11 99.

Mr. Marais tells me that he has found the sexual organs enlarged and obviously in use in most of these birds, and I have no hesitation in considering the species new.

From the adult *L. rubiginosus* the present bird differs markedly in the absence of the white lores, of the black stripe through the eye, and of the pale rufous breast. Young examples of *L. rubiginosus*, although without the black band through the eye, always have the throat and breast slightly tinged with pale rufous, and the freckling of the lower surface does not extend to the chin and throat; neither has *L. rubiginosus*, either in the young or adult stage, the pale tips to the wing-coverts present in *L. maraisi*.

I have not been able to compare *L. maraisi* with the young stages of *L. olivaceus* for want of specimens, but the latter is very rare in the Knysna, and has, in fact, been only once obtained by Mr. Marais in that district; this being, so far as I am able to ascertain, the first definite record of its occurrence within the borders of the Cape Colony.

[There are two skins in the Collection of the British Museum which appear to be referable to this species, if distinct, as Mr. W. L. Selater believes. They have been catalogued (B. M. C. viii. p. 161) as the young of *L. rubiginosus* (specimens *h* and *i*). There is also a third recently received from the Scebohm bequest.—EDD.]

